



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – August 29, 2006

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Roaring & Ridge Fires Further a Unique Fire History

Fire crews continue to monitor the spread of three lightning-caused fires in Kings Canyon National Park. The parks are managing all three fires with the “wildland fire use” strategy, which allows the natural spread of fire.

The Roaring Fire, now 649 acres, has grown about 25 acres a day over the past week. The Ridge Fire, less than one mile to the west of the Roaring Fire, is 11 acres. These two fires are south of Cedar Grove and north of Sentinel Dome.

Today, fire monitors will staff the 35-acre Burnt Fire which has previously been mapped only by helicopter. It is located about three miles northeast of Tehipite Dome and one mile south of Burnt Mountain.

This Labor Day weekend will be an excellent opportunity for visitors to observe a natural fire burning in the parks. The Roaring Fire is easily visible from the valley floor near Cedar Grove. Staff will be available at the visitor center to answer questions and explain the role of fire.

The parks are working with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District to minimize smoke impacts from the Roaring Fire. Although current smoke impacts to the Cedar Grove developed areas have been decreasing, visitors should still be aware that smoke could be present in the mornings.

A Unique Fire History

The Roaring and Ridge Fires are adjacent to the Sugarloaf basin. Beginning in the early 1970's, this basin was one of the first areas in the Sierra Nevada where managers did not automatically suppress all lightning-caused fires. These current fires are the first time that the parks have allowed fire to spread naturally on the northwest slopes of Sentinel Ridge, just north of Sugarloaf basin.

“Building on the fire history in the Sugarloaf Basin, the Roaring and Ridge Fires will expand the beneficial effects of natural fire into the surrounding drainages,” said Tony Caprio, Fire Ecologist.

For background information on the fires, go to www.nps.gov/seki and click on “Fire in the Parks” under the “Quick Links” section.

www.nps.gov/seki